

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Previously Presented) A blade clamp assembly for retaining a rotary blade on an arbor of a rotary tool, comprising:

a blade washer for engaging the blade to hold the blade on the arbor; and

a clamp assembly for being threaded into the arbor to clamp the blade washer against the blade, the clamp assembly including a body and a planetary gear system for transmitting torque applied to the clamp assembly to the blade washer,

wherein the body includes a keyed bottom surface and the blade washer comprises a keyed upper surface for engaging the keyed bottom surface of the body, and

wherein the planetary gear system multiplies the torque transmitted to the blade washer so that the torque transmitted to the blade washer is greater than the torque applied to the clamp assembly.

2. (Original) The blade clamp assembly as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a lever extendable from the clamp assembly for increasing the amount of torque applied to the clamp assembly.

3-6. (Cancelled)

7. (Original) The blade clamp assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein the clamp assembly further comprises:

a body;

a planet gear engaged with the body;

a bolt assembly retained within the body, the bolt assembly including a threaded bolt extending through the body for being threaded into the arbor and a carrier for supporting the planet gear;

a cap coupled to the body, the cap including a sun gear for engaging the planet gear for driving the planet gear when the cap is turned,

wherein the sun gear rotates the planet gear for rotating the carrier and turning the bolt assembly.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Original) The blade clamp assembly as claimed in claim 7, wherein the body comprises a ring gear for engaging the planet gear.

10. (Original) The blade clamp as claimed in claim 7, wherein the cap includes a lever extendable from the cap for increasing the amount of torque applied to the cap.

11. (Currently Amended) A rotary tool, comprising:

a motor;

an arbor rotated by the motor for supporting a rotary blade; and

a blade clamp assembly for retaining a rotary blade on the arbor, the blade clamp assembly including:

a body;

a blade washer for engaging the blade to hold the blade on the arbor; and

a clamp assembly for being threaded into the arbor to clamp the blade washer against the blade, the clamp assembly including a planetary gear system for transmitting torque applied to the clamp assembly to the blade washer,

wherein the clamp assembly has a rotational axis and

wherein the blade clamp assembly further comprises a lever extendable from the clamp assembly for increasing the amount of torque to the clamp assembly, the lever ~~positioned on the rotational axis and~~ movable from a first position to a second position where the lever extends outwardly from the clamp assembly in the second position; and

wherein the planetary gear system multiplies the torque transmitted to the blade washer so that the torque transmitted to the blade washer is greater than the torque applied to the clamp assembly; and

wherein the body includes a keyed bottom surface and the blade washer comprises a keyed upper surface for engaging the keyed bottom surface of the body.

12-16. (Cancelled)

17. (Currently Amended) The rotary tool as claimed in claim 11, wherein the clamp assembly further comprises:

a body;

a planet gear engaged with the body;

a bolt assembly retained within the body, the bolt assembly including a threaded bolt extending through the body for being threaded into the arbor and a carrier for supporting the planet gear;

a cap coupled to the body, the cap including a sun gear for engaging the planet gear for driving the planet gear when the cap is turned,

wherein the sun gear rotates the planet gear for rotating the carrier and turning the bolt assembly.

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Original) The rotary tool as claimed in claim 17, wherein the body comprises a ring gear for engaging the planet gear.

20-22. (Cancelled)